

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-01 SP-02 INR-05 /027 W

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R 121335Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5871

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9724

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LETTER TO PMG ON DEFENSE BUDGET

REF: STATE 189456

1. DEPT AND DOD HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPT INSTRUCTIONS ALL ELEMENTS OF US MISSION HAVE REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING WITH ETHIOPIANS THE IMPACT OF AGGREGATE COSTS OF EPMG'S CONTEMPLATED MILITARY PURCHASES, OR DISCUSSING RELATIVE MERIT OF EXPENDITURES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VS. MILITARY NEEDS.

2. MINDFUL OF SENSITIVITY THIS WHOLE TOPIC, WHEN WE TRANSMITTED A TELEGRAM DISCUSSING IT (COMPLETED YESTERDAY, SEND TODAY) WE SENT IT EXDIS, WITH DISTRIBUTION TO BE DETERMINED BY AF BUREAU. WE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE DISCUSSING SUBJECT MATTER OF THAT MESSAGE WITH ANY ETHIOPIAN.

3. ON A SEPARATE MATTER I JUDGED WE COULD NOT AVOID RAISING WITH THE MOND THE PROJECTION OF OUT-YEAR O & M COSTS (NOT REPEAT NOT THE MUCH LARGER CAPITAL COSTS OR PAYMENT SCHEDULES) ARISING FROM POST, CURRENT AND CONTEMPLATED MAP AND FMS PURCHASES. THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE US GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIRES MAAG TO DISCUSS REDUCTION OF O & M CONTENT OF MAP AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO EPMG THAT O & M COSTS FOR FMS ITEMS CANNOT BE FUNDED UNDER MAP. THEREFORE, WITH MY APPROVAL CMAAG ON
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JULY 31, IN AN END-OF-TOUR LETTER TO DEFMIN ENCOMPASSING MANY

OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDED A TABLE SHOWING CURRENT AND OUT-YEAR ESTIMATED O & M LEVELS AND URGED APPROPRIATE COGNIZANCE OF THESE IN EPMG PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING FOR THE FUTURE. THESE ESTIMATES WERE BASED ON ANTICIPATED SUPPORT COSTS FOR DELIVERED AS WELL AS PROGRAMMED MAP AND FMS ITEMS, ALSO TAKING ACCOUNT OF PROGRESSIVE PHASE-DOWN IN THE O & M CONTENT OF MAP. TABLE (IN MILLIONS ETH \$ AT ABOUT TWO TO ONE US \$) WAS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

FY 75	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79
ETH \$13.6	29.0	62.0	83.0

4. WE HAVE HAD AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE IN-HOUSE DISCUSSIONS OF THESE O & M MATTERS AS WELL AS NECESSARY FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EPMG. WE WOULD LIKE TO FIND A WAY OF OPENING NORMAL DIALOGUE WITH EPMG ABOUT LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS BUT CAN SEE NO WAY TO DO SO NOW WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING TO EXISTING STRONG EPMG SUSPICIONS OF USG DISINCLINATION TO CONTINUE SECURITY ASSISTANCE COOPERATION. WE ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT ELEMENT PARA TWO REFTEL (STIMULATING REQUEST FOR INCREASED MAP OR CREDIT) BECAUSE WHILE EPMG MIGHT MAKE REQUEST, IT WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR REFUSAL IN LIGHT OF WORLDWIDE MAP AVAILABILITIES AND ATTITUDES IN CONGRESS.

5. IMBALANCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI EQUIPMENT HOLDINGS IS VERY REAL, AND WILL BE COMPOUNDED BY IMPENDING OBSOLESCENCE OF EPMG ITEMS INCLUDING M-41 TANKS, F-86'S, ETC. DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ARE ALSO REAL. EPMG WILL HAVE TO SORT OUT ITS OWN PRIORITIES.
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